

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1166

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1912

FOR THE SECRETARY

E. O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS 4/30/74

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY' S ANNUAL REPORT: FOREIGN MINISTER
SCHMELZER' S REACTION

REF: STATE 073787

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR MIDDENDORF I SAW FONMIN SCHMELZER ON APRIL 25 TO GIVE HIM A COPY OF YOUR ANNUAL REPORT ON FOREIGN POLICY TOGETHER WITH YOUR PERSONAL MESSAGE TO HIM. SCHMELZER, WHO HAD SEEN REFERENCES TO THE REPORT, WAS GRATIFIED TO HAVE A COPY SO QUICKLY, ACCOMPANIED BY YOUR PERSONAL MESSAGE TO HIM.

2. I BRIEFED THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE BASIC THEME OF THE REPORT AND SEVERAL OF THE KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 1973 OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE DUTCH. SCHMELZER READ THE SECTION ON BENELUX CAREFULLY AND WITH KEEN INTEREST AND PRONOUNCED HIMSELF ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH IT. HE THOUGHT THE MINIMIZING OF POLITICAL DIFFERENCES WAS WELL PUT. ASSUMING THAT WE HAD THE BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM IN MIND SO FAR AS THE NETHERLANDS WAS CONCERNED, HE SAID THAT THE PROBLEM FOR HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN HOW TO BALANCE ITS " UNSHOCKED" CONFIDENCE IN AMERICA' S PURPOSE WITH THE NEED TO GIVE SOME OFFICIAL EXPRESSION TO THE SERIOUS CONCERN MANIFESTED IN THE DUTCH PARLIAMENT. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD EXPLAIN
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THIS DIRECTLY TO U. S. LEADERS IN WASHINGTON WHEN HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THEM.

3. SCHMELZER ALSO AGREED, AS INDICATED IN THE REPORT, THAT FOREIGN POLICY WAS NOT AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THE LAST DUTCH ELECTIONS. HE COMMENTED THAT DEFENSE EXPENDITURES COULD BE AN ISSUE FOR THE LEFT WING PARTIES BUT HE HOPED THAT THEY WOULD TAKE A REALISTIC SENSIBLE APPROACH IF THEY CAME TO POWER. HE POINTED OUT THAT MAX VAN DER STOEL (SLATED TO BE FONMIN IN A LEFT WING GOVT) WAS A CONFIRMED SUPPORTER OF NATO AND THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE; THE PROBLEMS WOULD COME FROM THE EXTREMIST ELEMENTS IN THE LEFT WING PARTIES.

4. SCHMELZER ALSO READ THE SECTION ON THE NORDIC COUNTRIES TO SEE HOW THE TREATMENT COMPARED WITH THAT OF THE BENELUX. HE APPROVED OF THE RESTRAINED WAY IN WHICH US DIFFERENCES WITH SWEDEN OVER VIETNAM WERE HANDLED, AND HOPED THAT THERE WOULD SOON BE AN IMPROVEMENT IN US- SWEDISH RELATIONS.

5. I CALLED THE FOREIGN MINISTER' S ATTENTION TO YOUR INVITATION TO GIVE YOU HIS PERSONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS ON ANY ASPECT OF THE REPORT. HE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THEM TO YOU PERSONALLY. IF HE REMAINS AS FONMIN HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON SOMETIME IN THE COMING MONTHS PROVIDED YOU COULD SEE HIM. I SAID THAT I WAS SURE THIS WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO YOU. HE SAID THAT APART FROM MULTILATERAL MEETINGS, HE WOULD PLAN THIS AS HIS FIRST VISIT ABROAD FOLLOWING A RESOLUTION OF THE DUTCH GOVERNMENTAL IMPASSE. HE ADDED THAT IF HE LEFT OFFICE HE WOULD RECOMMEND THE NEW FONMIN STUDY THE REPORT AND THEN GIVE YOU HIS COMMENTS.

6. COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO HIS GENERALLY PESSIMISTIC ATTITUDE IN RECENT MONTHS SCHMELZER DID NOT TALK LIKE A MAN WHO BELIEVED HIMSELF CONDEMNED TO LEAVE OFFICE. HE REFERRED TO CURRENT EFFORTS TO FORM A COMPOSITE LEFT- WING-CENTER GOVERNMENT IN WHICH HE WOULD HAVE NO PART BUT HE SEEMED DUBIOUS THAT THEY WOULD SUCCEED. HE WAS QUITE SINCERE IN STATING HIS WISH TO VISIT WASHINGTON IF HE REMAINED AS FONMIN. AS SEEN FROM THE HAGUE THIS WOULD GIVE A USEFUL BOOST TO US- DUTCH RELATIONS DURING A PERIOD OF INTERNAL DIFFICULTY FOR THE DUTCH GOVT.

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